

Department of Fish and Game

Misuse of a State Vehicle, Improper Travel Reimbursements (Case I2009-0601)

REPORT NUMBER I2011-1, CHAPTER 5, ISSUED AUGUST 2011

This report found that a manager at the Department of Fish and Game¹ (Fish and Game) improperly directed an employee under his supervision to use a state vehicle for commuting between her home and work locations at a cost to the State of \$8,282 during a nine-month period. In addition, the employee improperly requested—and the manager improperly approved—reimbursement for \$595 in lodging and meal expenses incurred by the employee near her headquarters.

In the report, the California State Auditor (state auditor) made the following recommendations to Fish and Game. The state auditor's determination regarding the current status of recommendations is based on Fish and Game's response to the state auditor as of September 2012.

Recommendation 1.a—See pages 35 and 36 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.

To recover the cost of the improper use of the state vehicle, Fish and Game should follow the guidelines established in state regulations and initiate repayment from the manager for the costs associated with the misuse of the state vehicle.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

In September 2012 Fish and Game provided us with an update to this case; however, it did not indicate any action taken in response to this recommendation.



Recommendation 1.b—See page 36 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.

To recover the cost of the improper travel reimbursements, Fish and Game should seek recovery of the \$595 in lodging and meal reimbursements that were paid to the employee.

Fish and Game's Action: No action taken.

Fish and Game provided an update in September 2012; however, it did not indicate any action taken in response to this recommendation.



Recommendation 1.c—See pages 35 and 36 of the investigative report on the related finding.

Fish and Game should take appropriate disciplinary action against the manager for directing the misuse of a state vehicle.

Fish and Game's Action: Fully implemented.

Fish and Game reported that it issued a corrective counseling memo to the supervisor in June 2011.

Recommendation 1.d—See pages 33—36 of the investigative report for information on the related finding.

Fish and Game should provide training to the manager and the employee about state rules for the payment of employee travel expenses.

¹ As of January 1, 2013, the Department of Fish and Game became the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fish and Game's Action: Partially implemented.

In September 2012 Fish and Game reported that it provided the manager with training related to our investigation; however, Fish and Game did not indicate that it provided the employee with any training regarding state rules for payment of employee travel expenses.